

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN MIKE WHEAT**, on March 4, 2005 at 5:30 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Mike Wheat, Chairman (D)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)
Sen. Jeff Mangan (D)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Annie Glover, Committee Secretary

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: None.
Executive Action: None.

SEN. WHEAT called the meeting to order to make appointments to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC). Legislative rule dictates that these appointments must be made before the 50th day of the Session. **SEN. WHEAT** spoke with **SEN. MCGEE**, **SEN. STORY** and **SEN. SHOCKLEY**. They all wish to continue to serve on ECQ. For the Democrats, **SEN. WHEAT** serves on EQC would like to continue. Since he is on the Legislative Consumer Committee, **SEN. TOOLE** would not like to continue to be on EQC. **SEN. ROUSH** may not continue due to term limits.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.8 - 13.4}

Motion: **SEN. WHEAT** moved to NOMINATE **SEN. MCGEE**, **SEN. STORY** AND **SEN. SHOCKLEY** AS THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE EQC.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. MANGAN** move to CLOSE NOMINATIONS. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.8 - 15}

SEN. WHEAT opened nominations for the three Democratic members of the EQC.

SEN. ROUSH nominated **SEN. WHEAT**.
SEN. ELLIOT nominated **SEN. LARSON**.
SEN. TOOLE nominated **SEN. LIND**.
SEN. ROUSH nominated **SEN. HANSEN**.
SEN. MANGAN nominated **SEN. ROUSH**.

SEN. ROUSH explained his nomination for **SEN. HANSEN**. Currently there are no nominations for members from the highline. **SEN. HANSEN** would bring geographical balance to the committee.

Motion: **SEN. MANGAN** moved to CLOSE NOMINATIONS.

SEN. TOOLE inquired if **SEN. LARSON** had been asked if he was interested in serving. **SEN. WHEAT** had spoken with **SEN. LARSON** and he is willing to serve.

SEN. TOOLE asked if anyone had spoken with **SEN. HANSEN**. **SEN. ROUSH** replied no.

SEN. ROUSH repeated his feeling that a geographical balance was necessary for the committee.

SEN. ELLIOT advised that the committee members each write down their three top choices and the votes be added up. The committee agreed to proceed in this manner.

SEN. TOOLE stated that **SEN. LIND** actively sought these types of committees. He is environmentally minded, and he has an interest in these topics. **SEN. TOOLE** criticized the EQC for not accomplishing anything. He would like to see more members on the EQC with environmental leanings. He stated that it is a plus for people who are motivated by these natural resource issues to be on this committee. **SEN. TOOLE** emphasized **SEN. LIND's** active pursuit of these issues.

SEN. WHEAT agreed that **SEN. LIND** has shown a great amount of interest in the environment.

SEN. ELLIOT agreed that there needed to be environmentally minded people on the committee. He stated that the committee needs to have a philosophical balance. **SEN. LARSON** is from coal-bed methane country. While he is environmentally conscious, he also brings a balance to the EQC. As for a geographical balance, **SEN. ELLIOT** reminded the committee that there is no one present from Missoula, that there are three members from Great Falls, and that there are no women on the Committee on Committees. There won't be any women on the EQC either. Sometimes there is balance, sometimes not. Sometimes balance adds to the success of a committee, and sometimes it detracts from it. For these reasons, **SEN. ELLIOT** stated, he is supporting **SEN. LARSON**.

Majority Aid Andy Tweeten counted the votes.

The committee discussed the members of the equivalent House committee.

Mr. Tweeten reported that **SEN. WHEAT**, **SEN. LARSON**, and **SEN. LIND** received the most votes.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. ROUSH** moved that **SEN. WHEAT**, **SEN. LARSON**, and **SEN. LIND** BE NOMINATED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:45 P.M.

SEN. MIKE WHEAT, Chairman

ANNIE GLOVER, Secretary

MW/ag

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([cos48aad0.PDF](#))